

HOW FRENCH FARMS ARE WORKED.

From the Rich Landowner to the Half Share Man.

In France there is a hierarchy of farmers. The great landowners we need not consider. They are not in their fields. They are idling, gaming, talking politics in Paris. They number their acres by the thousands. Take the French Rothschilds, for instance—they own 400,000 acres of land. Other barons of finance and many gentlemen of ancient house are masters of similar estates.

Such "farmers" as these are at the head of the hierarchy, the farming baron, the gentleman farmer. Their lands are exploited in the broad, businesslike way that rules the syndicate wheat farms of the great Northwest. Let us go down the scale. Next in order come the farmer generals. They are middlemen. They are the capitalists who stand between the owner, from whom they rent a hundred farms, and the tenants to whom they sublet. Few of them have ever turned a furrow. The farmer general is an intermediary parasite.

At this point in the agricultural hierarchy comes the man who cultivates his fields. The largest class is made up of those who rent their farms—as in England—from some great land owner; if the lease be long and the terms be good he fares not ill. He owns his stock and implements. Usually he is well to do. He employs a dozen men, laborers, shepherds. More and more he is becoming the type of the French farmer, for the small owner—he who ploughed his own acres—is giving way before the universal tendency toward concentration; even so the little shopkeeper is being destroyed by the all absorbing department store.

In a great measure this man is independent. Twice a year he pays his rent; probably he rents his farm on a lease of three, six and nine years. He is master in his domain. He may sell, buy, sow and garner as he will. Perhaps his greatest difficulty is in procuring laborers, for the young men go to the cities, to the factories; so he works from dawn to dusk and with him in the field his women work.

Lower in the scale is the farmer who works his land on shares, receiving one-half of the product. His farming is done under the direction of the owner or farmer-general. This is the method in vogue at Ferrières, the great estate of the Baron Rothschild in the Seine-et-Marne. Usually but a small farm is allotted to the "half shares man." In reality he is the serf of the new regime, for financial feudalism has preserved many of the old servitudes of the soil.

In the first place he may at any time be called away to work in the owner's fields. He must make all repairs. He must dig trenches wherever the owner sees fit. He must supply all the straw and hay the owner requires and send to his kitchen eggs and butter and vegetables in season. He must allow all or any of the owner's laborers to cook their food in his kitchen whenever such laborers are employed near by. And lastly if the owner finds the work ill done he may hire outside laborers and send them into the fields, for which the "half shares man" must pay.—From the Outing Magazine.

The Honest Robber.

The fourth earl of Stanhope, when on his homeward way late one dark night, was held up by the most gentlemanly of highwaymen, who preferred his request for money or the nobleman's life in quite the nicest way. It happened that Lord Stanhope had not any money with him and was disinclined to yield the alternative.

"Your watch, then," suggested the gentleman at the opposite end of the pistol. That watch, the earl explained, was dear to him. He valued it at a hundred guineas, and would not surrender it. "What I will do," he said, "is to bring and deposit in this tree the worth of the watch in money, and you can call and get it tomorrow night," says the London Standard.

"Done, m' lord," said the highwayman.

The law knew nothing about this arrangement, and the earl did as he had promised. He placed the hundred guineas where the highwayman might at his leisure collect it. And there, so far as he knew, the matter ended.

Years afterward he attended a great banquet in the city and found himself pleasantly entertained by an extremely well known man, whose signature was good for a sum in several figures. Next day came to Lord Stanhope a letter enclosing the sum of 100 guineas. Accompanying it was a note begging his acceptance of a loan granted some years previously to the man who now forwarded it.

That loan, said the letter, had enabled the sender to gain a new start in life, to make a fortune, and to renew acquaintance at dinner on the previous night with his lordship. The city magnate and the highwayman of earlier days were one and the same.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The General Demand

of the Well-Informed of the World has always been for a simple, pleasant and efficient liquid laxative remedy of known value; a laxative which physicians could sanction for family use because its component parts are known to them to be wholesome and truly beneficial in effect, acceptable to the system and gentle, yet prompt, in action.

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Testing a New Court.

The efficacy of the new Central American Court of Justice is to be given a prompt test. The complaint of Honduras, that interference by Guatemala and San Salvador has encouraged rebellion against the Honduran government, has been answered by a strong cautionary decree issued to the offending governments. It now remains to be seen whether this decree will be respected or enforced. If successful in maintaining neutrality it will not only prove its value in prompting the peace of troubled Central America, but will afford an object lesson to be studied and followed in the wider theatre of international relations.—Boston Herald.

It is Rather Curious.

The Pittsburgh man who refused to sacrifice his mustache on the altar of matrimony, and thereby lost a bride, is to be congratulated. The woman who loves a man solely for a clean-shaven upper lip seems no loss. At the same time a man who loves a mustache more than a woman is in a peculiar position. We do not decide this matter, but we submit that it is curious.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

THREE WEEKS

Brought About a Remarkable Change. Mrs. A. J. Davis, of Murray, Ky., says: "When I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, kidney disease was slowly poisoning me. Dizzy spells almost made me fall, sharp pains like knife thrusts would catch me in the back, and finally an attack of



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Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Fiji Golf.

The Fijian game of tigna is probably as ancient as golf, which it somewhat resembles. The brown warriors play along the roadway, and the game consists of long drives with a reed, one end of which is set in a large brown bean. Balancing a javelin nicely in the hand, with the forefinger as the driving power they project it swiftly at a mound on the road ahead, from which it glances, falling 200 or 300 yards away. Thus they walk and play for miles, vying with each other for the longest drive. The Fijians "keep their eye on the mound," for it needs some skill to strike a heap of stones at the right spot on the reed so as to secure a long straight flight.—London Illustrated News.

FRUITS OF OBSERVATION

"Have you ever seen a grapeshot?" "No, but I've often watched a cherry-bounce."—Baltimore American.

\$100 Reward. \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure—the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

A SERIOUS PURPOSE.

Philanthropist—My friend, have you ever had any serious purpose in life?

Hobo—Yea'r: all my life I've wanted to be a circus clown, but the luck's alwuz been agin me.—Chicago News.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

A BIG DOSE.

"You must let the baby have one cow's milk to drink every day," said the doctor.

"Very well, if you say so, Doctor," said the perplexed young mother; "but I really don't see how he is going to hold it all."—Life.

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